



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Symmes Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes 11/22/2004

MINUTES

SYMMES NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SNAC)

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2004; Senior Center

SNAC MEMBERS PRESENT (alphabetical order): Sandi Bourgeois, Terry Dash (Chair), Elaine Duffy, Greg Jackmauh, Paul Morrison.

OTHERS PRESENT: Erik Moore.

7:04 Meeting called to order.

- Note there is an ARB meeting tonight at the same time as this meeting. We had some concerns over having no SNAC representation at that meeting. TerryD noted that she spoke with Kevin O'Brien on this, and he said that the ARB agenda was not such that we needed attend at the expense of critical work in our own SNAC meeting.

7:06 Review Minutes from Nov 16, 2004 last meeting.

➤..... PRM to correct: references to "Symmes TAC SubComm" should read "Symmes Transportation Subcommittee" as per the TAC website (confirmed, PRM)

➤..... PRM to correct: under 9:13m, the text should emphasize that we are looking for protection before it happens, and that the effort should be to prevent significant hazardous accidents such as spills etc.

Minutes are approved pending those two corrections.

7:18 On to NPP

- TerryD asks ElaineD to review activity at the TAC's Symmes Transportation Subcommittee the previous Thursday. ElaineD reported on her having expressed her concern regarding the negative impact on Summer Street traffic with the closing of Hospital Road access to Woodside Lane. ElaineD emphasized that her statement were made as a resident on Summer Street.
- TerryD noted her concerns about SNAC members speaking in non-SNAC meetings/venues on topics that have not been discussed in SNAC; there was concern that SNAC members would be identified as SNAC members even if they cited that they spoke 'as residents' only. TerryD proposed that this would create the perception of division among SNAC opinions by outside organizations that could negatively impact SNAC's effectiveness.
- Discussion continues by reviewing text in the NPP that refers to construction traffic and Woodside access.
- ErikM points out that Fish may have trouble with managing people if some traffic were allowed to use Woodside during construction - i.e. being able to control that some people use Woodside and some do not. ErikM, separately, asks for further distinction on definitions of construction vehicles.
- ElaineD suggested that 'No Truck' signs could be posted on Oak Hill and Woodside; GregJ notes that this could control against a certain weight of vehicle.
- GregJ notes that the developer/construction team may want only one single entrance/exit to the site for security. This could involve a fully fenced area with a single gate.
- GregJ guesses that there could be a couple of hundred people on the site during construction. ErikM asks how many personal vehicles this might mean.
- GregJ suggests that perhaps not a bad idea for the Woodside access to be one-way during the demolition and construction period.
- Note, a No Truck limit might suggest a 10,000 pound limit.
- Erik says there should be some signage to help with this.
- We should ask Fish about the fence in and number of access points they are really considering. And ask the definition of construction vehicles. And the number of people on site during the various phases of work.
- GregJ will check in with Patrick, Jake and Del LaLuc at Fish and Suffolk.
- Separately, TerryD notes a comment from neighbor Deborah Dill. She wants to underline the concern about the use of the private roads surrounding the site; recall that the neighbors pay for the maintenance of the private roads; thus; NPP should reflect repair to roads.

8:15 Updates on Previous Action Items

- TerryD talked with KevinO - it is okay if we have direct communications with Fish and then report updates and summaries to the ARB.
- KevinO told her that the NPPs are typically not so detailed.
- Terry spoke with neighbor John McDermott who advised that it is best to keep a good relationship with the developer.
- Terry spoke with Steve O'Riordon who has seen the NPP - suggested we should forward materials to the town departments that are involved. KevinO agreed with TerryD to do this.
- Terry notes the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association (MCNA); that we should look at their plan for Cambridge City Hospital.
- GregJ comments on his handing out the flyers for the Dec 1 meeting. He spoke at length with many people. He encouraged attendance at the Dec 1 meeting. So too for SandiB.
- ErikM notes the idea of providing note cards at the Dec 1 meeting for people to submit questions in the meeting. Or, offer email/mail-in of comments later.
- PaulM comments on his conversation with Christine Connolly Director of the town's Dept of Public Health. She has been in touch with Fish; shared the demolition checklist with them; copy given to us for tonight. She has talked with Michelle Byrne of the Building Department on this to begin to discuss the development. She is aware of the potential for rodents/pests during demolition and construction. She notes there are closed traps that can be used to protect non-pest life. Animal Control Officer is Dianne Scuderi. There is a great deal of work to do to prepare for this.

8:45 On to the Dec 1 meeting on NPP that calls for neighborhood input

- Flyers handed out last week.
- The Dec 1 meeting starts at 6:30pm.
- PaulM suggests a circular or semi-circular chair set-up
- ElaineD will check with Dan for Public Access cable coverage.
- PaulM will order food through cafeteria
- Note that we will summarize the notes from this meeting and post as Minutes.
- A summary will go to the ARB and Fish (along with other SNAC work on this)
- Our goals are to collect neighbors comments; your info.
- We would like to get some comments in on previous problems in previous builds.
- We should acknowledge that people's comments are "noted"
- We do not want counterpoints or discussion in the Dec 1 meeting as it would cut into time for neighbors to speak.
- Rule for speaking: 3 min. Give name and address - Emphasis on neighbors.
- Look to provide contact info at the end. How to communicate? Note okay for c/o Kevin O at town hall or email.

❖ Planned Agenda

- ❖ 2.5min for PaulM (will chair the meeting). Will call meeting to order; cover ground rules.
- ❖ 2.5min for SandiB. Who is SNAC?
- ❖ 2.5min for TerryD. Reports on Where we are and where we are going.
- ❖ 2.5min for GregJ. What can we accomplish; Neighborhood input: value and necessity.
- ❖ 10.0min for LoreleiK. Commentary on NPP.
- ❖ Open time for neighborhood input/comment.
- ❖ 8:15: PaulM will end comment period. Wrap up.

9:30pm Adjourn

Nov 22, 2004 , SNAC MINUTES – per P. Morrison